

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: TELETYPE AND AIR MAIL

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SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

TO: Chief, FRP

DATE: 23 August 1949

FROM: Chief of Station, [redacted]

SUBJECT: [redacted]

SPECIFIC: Albanian, Bulgarian, Yugoslav, and Rumanian Groups and Publications

REFERENCE: CDS No. 18

The following report was prepared by [redacted] in reply to reference:

1. Albanians in Italy. (As of July 1949, there are approximately 1300 Albanian refugees in Italy, of whom two thirds have arrived here since 1945. Of this total, 350 are receiving IRO assistance outside of camps, in such cities as Rome, Torino, and Bologna, and are for the most part students. About 200 others, although eligible for IRO assistance, are located in areas without IRO facilities. Still another 750 are distributed in IRO camps, with the largest number (approximately 450) being at the Bari camp.

2. The Albanians are divided politically as follows:

- a) Balli Kombetar. Ballist sources estimate their own membership in Italy at about 350 persons. It is an anti-Communist and anti-Fascist resistance organization which claims to have been set up in 1939 at the time of Italy's occupation of Albania. Reports, so far unsubstantiated by us, also indicate however that many of its most important leaders, who are strong proponents of reform, have been impressed by TITO's break with the Cominform and feel that his brand of "white Communism" may represent salvation for their country. Balli Kombetar has intermittently published three newspapers, "Albania" (3 numbers), "Flamuri" (3 numbers) and "Letra d'Albanie" (18 numbers).
- b) Legality. This group was founded in 1943 by King ZOG, and of course backs his claim to the throne. It has some 150 members in Italy. It is officially anti-Communist, and has never been reported as Communist-penetrated. It has no publications.
- c) Elek Kumbetari Independent. This group, founded in 1946, represents the former hierarchy of the Albanian government set up by the Italians after their invasion of Albania in 1939. It is anti-Communist, but otherwise represents all shades of political opinion, including persons who now profess to be liberal democrats as well as those who favor the return of King ZOG.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTION: Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
- (2)(D) Methods/Source ☒
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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Its membership is between 150 and 200 persons in Italy. It publishes "Albania Libre", approximately one issue every two months, whose publisher is Isa D. BERLACI, 35 Via Eleonora Duse, Rome.

- d) Committee for Defense of Kosovo. The number of members this group has in Italy is not known to us. There are about 200 Albanian Kosovars in Italy, but many of them belong to a rival Kosovo group (see below). Furthermore, the leaders of this Committee are for the most part in Greece; they include Ibrahim DUMSHI, Adem JETEMI, and Lutfi GASHI. All have been associated with Balli Kombetar. The group has no publications.
- e) Second League of Friendship. This organization, a rival of the one mentioned above, is headed by Isa D. BERLACI, a prominent collaborator of the Germans during their so-called "soft occupation" of Albania. The group is anti-Communist in general, strongly anti-TITO in particular, because it claims that the Kosovo area should be united with Albania on ethnic and economic grounds. In contrast to the Committee for the Defense of Kosovo, this group is closely allied to the U.K.I. It has no publication.
3. Serbs in Italy. At the present time, there are approximately 2000 Serb refugees in Italy. Perhaps half of them live in IRO Displaced Persons camps, of which Ragnoli, with 550 Serb inhabitants, is the most important. About 120 of the Serbs live in Rome.
4. Politically, more than fifty percent of the Serb refugees are former Chetniks, who served under J. V. DJEVIC, STANJIC, and STANJIC. They are divided in their present allegiances between the J. V. DJEVIC group, which is closely connected with the J. V. DJEVIC group in the United States; and the London Yugoslav Committee (which includes STANJIC, Serb Peasant Party; STANJIC, Radical Party; VJATKO, Democratic Party; and STANJIC, Yugoslav National Party). The Serb refugees are almost unanimously anti-Ustasha and anti-Communist.
5. The J. V. DJEVIC group publishes a newspaper, "Srpske Novine", in Rome.
6. Croats in Italy. There are some 3000 Croat refugees in Italy; most of these are from pre-war Croatia, but a large percentage is from the portion of Venezia Giulia occupied by Yugoslavia as a result of post-war settlements. Many of the refugees are relatively recent arrivals, since emigrants of the immediate post-war period have already been resettled overseas or in Germany, either independently or under auspices of the IRO.
7. The Croats are being cared for as follows:

Living in IRO camps	2000 persons
Living in Italian Collecting Centers	300 persons
Living in National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC)	200 persons
Living independently	500 persons

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15. There is no formal political organization of Croats in Italy, and there is thus no way of telling exactly how they are divided politically. The two main centers of political attraction among them are the Croat Peasant Party whose leader, Dr. MACER, now lives in the United States; and the Ustasha group.

16. There is no Croat press in Italy, and Croats here therefore read newspapers published elsewhere, of which the most important are the following:

Hrvatski Glas, Winnipeg, Canada;
Hrvat. S. Glasnik, Chicago;
Hrvatska Rijec, Louvain, Belgium;
Hrvatska, Buenos Aires, Argentina;
Sloboda, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

17. Slovenes in Italy. There are approximately 3700 Slovene refugees in Italy at the present time. A great proportion of them are from Zone B of Venezia Giulia.

18. The following figures show the distribution of the Slovenes:

Living in D.O. camps	2000 persons
Italian Government camps	200 persons
Living independently -- Gorizia and Trieste areas	800 persons
Living independently - Rome, Milan and other large cities	700 persons

19. In discussing the political orientation of the Slovenes, it is necessary first to divide them into two large groups: first, those from the pre-war territory of Yugoslavia; and secondly, those from Venezia Giulia, which before the war belonged to the Kingdom of Italy. The latter group has not developed any formal political organization because all minority nationalist expression was repressed by Italy's Fascist government. Of the Slovenes from pre-war Yugoslavia, from seventy to ninety percent are believed to favor the Slovenian Catholic Party of Dr. VINKO KATK. However, legal restrictions in Italy prevent any formal political organization among them, and almost without exception their political leaders have emigrated.

20. The Slovene group has no publication of its own in Italy. Slovene-language newspapers, published elsewhere, which are read by the refugees in Italy include the following:

Svobodna Slovenija, Buenos Aires;
Slovenija, Germany;
Ameriška Domovina, Cleveland;
Katoliški Glas, Trieste;
Demokracija, Trieste.

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12. 14. Rumanians in Italy. There are about 500 Rumanian refugees presently in Italy; they are distributed as follows:

Living in NCYC camps	110 persons
Living in IRO camps	230 persons
Living in Italian camps	40 persons
Living independently	120 persons

13. 15. The major part of the refugees are followers of Iuliu MANIU, the political leader who is at present in prison in Rumania. A small group of Iron Guardists is known to exist in Italy, but its membership is a closely guarded secret.

14. 16. Two anti-Communist papers are published by Rumanians in Italy:

a) Tara, published monthly, circulation is 1000 copies in Europe and U.S.A.;

b) Sufletul Romanesc, published monthly, circulation 500, published by Father Giorgio QUARA, Pass giatta del Gianicolo 5, Rome.

15. 17. Bulgarians in Italy. There are 300 Bulgarians in IRO camps in Italy.

16. 18. Sixty-five percent of the above number consider themselves members of the Bulgarian Peasant Party, headed by Georgi M. DIMITROV, while the others have no known political allegiance. A very small but unspecified percentage are considered by anti-Communist Bulgarians to be working as informers for the Bulgarian Legation in Rome.

17. 19. The Bulgarians have no publication in Italy.

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